

Claims 18-26 are pending in the application. Claims 18-25 stand rejected. Claim 18 is an independent claim. The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims.

Claims 18 and 25 have been amended. Claims 19, 20, 21 and 22 have been canceled. Claim 26 has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

### **Claim Objections**

Claim 24 was objected to because of informalities. Applicants have corrected the informalities.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duvall (U.S. Patent No. 4,761,737) and further in view of Sakurai (U.S. Patent 5,093,779). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion.

The Examiner asserts that Duvall does not disclose reading the file location number and comparing the location number with the file space number. The examiner further states that Sakurai does disclose reading the file location number and comparing vnode or inode with the serial number for the file location.

Both of the cited references discuss the management of file systems. As part of the management process, it may be necessary to search and retrieve certain information. However, the present invention focuses on externally creating a file identifier when a native operating system does not provide a service that generates a file identifier. Referring specifically to Figures 2 and 3 of Sakurai, these tables contain information about system files. However, this information is already compiled for each file. Applicants submit that to use this information to generate a file identifier is somewhat straightforward. However, the application for Applicant's present invention is to generate a file identifier when the file information is not collected and compiled for the desired file. The present invention uses initial pieces of information to identify and gather other information related to a system file and the parent file of a system file. As described in Figure 5 and paragraphs [0034] through [0040] to generate a file identifier

when the native operating system does not provide for the generation of a file identifier as described in Figure 4 of Applicant's invention.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness. As indicated above, Duvall, the primary reference, fails to teach or teaches away from (inter alia) the step of reading the file number and comparing the file location number with the file space number.

Sakurai fails to provide the deficiencies of comparing said vnode or inode number to said serial number for the file location number and retrieving the file name of the resource out of the directory and the step of constructing a file identifier for that file system object from said obtained unique physical attribute and said file system object name, by coupling the unique physical attribute to the file system object name to produce the file identifier for a particular file system object. Sakurai discloses techniques for managing file systems but not for constructing a file identifier as claimed in the present invention. Thus, Sakurai fails to teach the missing limitations. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine Duvall with Sakurai, and such a combination would fail to provide the missing limitations. Thus, Duvall alone or in combination with Sakuria fails to support a finding of obviousness.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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